(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For commercial and operational reasons, there is no proposal to expand air service in Madhya Pradesh at present.

Development of Tourism in the country

2484. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been emphasising on steps to facilitate promotion of tourism in the country where cooperation of our domestic airlines, besides Air India, would be essential ;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Airlines have expanded/revised Services and facilities to cater to the increased needs, particularly of the foreign tourists, in the events of its growth in the near future; and

(c) what steps are being envisaged to provide air services to remote areas in the north-eastern region where potential of tourism is considrably high ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of the linkage between air services and tourism. During the current year Air India have increased the number of services on India-Singapore and India-Japan routes and have also introduced new services on India-Canada route. Indian Airlines have also introduced new services on several sectors including stations in north—eastern region.

Development of tourist places at Meerut in U.P.

2485. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government as aware that Sardhana town and Hastinapur town in Meerut District of Uttar Pradesh have a world famous church and ancient jain temples, respectively, attracting lakhs of pilgrims and tourist of respective faith ;

(b) whether Government have received over the years requests and representations from eminent persons and organisations to develop these two places a big tourist centres ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take or have taken for their development ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them and dependent upon their merits, inter-se priorities and the availability of funds.

No proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Central assistance to develop tourist facilities at Sardhana and Hastinapur towns in Meerut District.

Air service from Bombay to Khajuraho

2486. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI :
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal for starting air service from Bombay to Khajuraho was submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Central Government; and

(b) if so, by when the air service in this route is likely to be operated ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present for operation of air services from Bombay to Khajuraho.

Chartering of Jumbo Jets for VIPs

2487. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the existing arrangement with air India for chartering of Jumbo jets for VIP movement, especially Boeing 747 planes ;